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**Plainwell Dam**

Jayna Legg to: SAMUEL BORRIES, JAMES SARIC, Don Deblasio

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All, thanks for your help. Keep me posted. JL

Cleanup complete of stretch of Kalamazoo River near Plainwell dam

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Chris Killian | Special to the Kalamazoo Gazette

PLAINWELL — Workers recently wrapped up the second significant cleanup in the past three years of polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, in the Kalamazoo River.

A two-year, \$10 million project removed 17,100 cubic yards of contaminated soil and sediment laden with PCBs from 11,000 feet of riverbank north and south of the Plainwell No. 2 dam, located a few miles upstream from the city of Plainwell.

"We've performed an effective cleanup on the project with no releases of PCB concentration downstream," said Sam Borries of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Chicago office.

In addition, more than 672,500 square feet of riverbank has been restored, including the replanting of native vegetation.

The cleanup was paid for by Georgia-Pacific Inc., which also helped pay for a \$25 million project about 3.5 miles downstream from the dam, where 120,000 cubic yards of material contaminated with PCBs was removed from 1.5 miles of the river. The project, the first significant removal of contamination since 80 miles of the river was declared a Superfund site in 1990, was announced in 2007 and completed in 2009. The former Plainwell Dam was also removed.

Officials from the EPA and other agencies will be hosting a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Plainwell Comfort Inn & Conference Center to update the public on the progress made cleaning up the river.

Officials are expected to discuss future cleanup phases, including a plan to investigate for PCB contamination from the former Plainwell Dam downstream to the Otsego City Dam. Initial data collection will begin this fall and winter, with extensive soil and sediment sampling to occur next summer, according to the EPA.

"We'd like to see work done in every year, every construction season," Borries said. "We're anxious to be in the river every construction season."

Cleanup alternatives for the Allied Paper Landfill in the city of Kalamazoo are also to be discussed at Wednesday's meeting. The agency is to begin accepting recommendations and comments from the public on what should happen to the landfill next spring.